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## **EDUCATION LOTTERY JOINS WITH NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING TO ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO GIVE RESPONSIBLY**

**RALEIGH** – The North Carolina Education Lottery (NCEL) and the National Council on Problem Gambling urge adult responsibility when considering gifts for young people.

Lottery products, such as instant scratch-off tickets, are often popular stocking stuffers or easy choices to slip into someone's holiday card. In North Carolina, players must be 18 or older to play the lottery. For some adolescents, parents or other adults giving lottery tickets might be interpreted as adult approval to engage in an activity reserved strictly for adults.

"It's important to be aware of the potential risks associated with lottery-related gifts to minors. These gifts, while well-intentioned, should not be given to kids. We only want lottery tickets going to people who are old enough to play legally," said Tom Shaheen, NCEL executive director.

The NCEL has an aggressive program restricting the sale of lottery tickets to minors. The lottery is encouraging adults to be active partners in preventing lottery tickets from ending up in the hands of minors. "We will continue to partner with our retailers to promote a clear message that gaming is not child's play," says Shaheen.

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100% of the North Carolina Education Lottery net proceeds are used for pre-kindergarten programs for at risk youth, reduction of class size in early grades, school construction and need-based college scholarships.

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